

REMARKS

This Supplemental Reply in response to the Advisory Action issued by the Examiner on October 16, 2003. In particular, the Examiner state:

“the specification and claims as originally filed provide no support for the bunt aid having an outer diameter of greater than about 6 inches.”

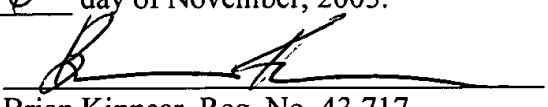
The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In particular, as one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize, the application is directed to a bunt aid. The bunt aid functions by being sufficiently wide that a baseball (or softball) can enter the bunt aid to simulate catching the ball with the bat. As one of ordinary skill in the art would understand, in order to accomplish is, the bunt aid must have an outer diameter of about 2 times the diameter of the ball being caught, similar in the dimensions to a baseball glove web. Thus one of ordinary skill in the art would inherently understand without further teaching that the diameter of about 6 inches means a minimum diameter of about 6 inches and the diameter could be in fact greater than 6 inches. See MPEP 2163.05 and 2163.06.

The Examiner also believes the use of the term self-securing introduces new matter. However, the original specification clearly states the strap is an attachment means 22, which could be VELCRO. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that attachment means 22 was a broad range of attachment devices commonly known in the art, of which self-securing devices are conventional. Thus, using the term self securing is not new matter because one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the term attachment means included all conventional devices to attach the bunt aid to the bat, self-securing or otherwise.

Finally, the Examiner objected to the figures. Replacement figures have been submitted. All these replacement figures have been previously submitted to the Examiner.

If an extension of time under 35 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this Amendment, such an extension is requested. If there are fees due under 37 U.S.C. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not otherwise accounted for, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Respectfully submitted this 6 day of November, 2003.



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